

# Math 104: College Algebra

## Fall Semester 2017

### Instructor Information

Dr. Kenneth Price holds the title of Professor of Mathematics and serves as Associate Director of the University Studies Program. Dr. Price uses he/him/his pronouns. He can be reached in his office, Pollock House 203, by phone at (920) 424-4233 or by E-mail at [pricek@uwosh.edu](mailto:pricek@uwosh.edu).

### Course Information

This syllabus is for sections 10 and 15 of Math 104, which meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

- Section 10 meets in room L102 of Clow Hall from 12:40 to 1:40 PM.
- Section 15 meets in room L102 of Clow Hall from 3:00 to 4:00 PM.

**Course Topics** Equations and inequalities; graphs, functions and models; polynomial and rational functions; exponential and logarithmic functions.

**Requirements** Enrolling in Math 104 requires either a sufficiently high score on the UW System math placement test or earning a grade of C or better in Mathematics 103 or an equivalent course. The following materials are essential.

- The required textbook is *College Algebra & Trigonometry* by Julie Miller and Donna Gerken. This is a custom publication of McGraw/Hill Education that is only available in the UW Oshkosh book store.
- The preferred graphing calculators are the TI-83 or TI-84. No other calculator will be supported. On exams and quizzes, students may not use calculators with algebra and calculus applications, such as the TI-89, or calculators on a mobile phone or laptop computer.

**General Education: Explore Mathematics (XM)** Math 104 is an Explore course within the Nature category of UW Oshkosh's University Studies Program. As part of a liberal education, explore courses support a broader understanding of the physical and natural world and develop transferable skills, like problem solving, which may be utilized in daily and professional life. Math 104 emphasizes the following intellectual and practical skills:

- Identification and objective evaluation of theories and assumptions
- Critical and creative thinking
- Written and oral communication
- Quantitative literacy

Math 104 and Math 106 together count for Math 108. Receiving credit for both Math 104 and Math 108 is not allowed.

**Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces (ALEKS)** The textbook is packaged with a 52-week ALEKS Code. You also need a class code, which the instructor will provide during class.

- Homework problems will be assigned using *ALEKS* at the address below.

*<https://www.aleks.com/login>*

All homework is due by midnight on the date displayed on the ALEKS time line.

- An orientation session will be held during class time on Friday, September 8 in Clow 16. During this orientation we will complete a tutorial to learn the tools of ALEKS, complete an ungraded *Initial Knowledge Check*, and start the homework for section 1.1.
- Everyone will want to log on to a campus computer by Friday, September 8. Problems logging on go to the Instructional Technology Help Desk in Dempsey 207. Help is available Monday through Friday between 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM. Call (920) 424-3020 or send E-mail to [helpdesk@uwosh.edu](mailto:helpdesk@uwosh.edu).
- ALEKS customer support is available at (714) 619-7090 or by online form at the address *<https://mhedu.force.com/aleks/s/alekscontactsupport>*. ALEKS customer support is available at the times listed below.
  - Sundays from 3:00 PM to 12:00 AM
  - Monday through Thursday from 6:00 AM to 12:00 AM
  - Fridays from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM

## Student Resources

Study groups are encouraged.

### Instructor Feedback

- The instructor will reply the same day to E-mails sent between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- Students are welcome to stop by Pollock House 203 for office hours on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Feel free to ask questions about anything that has to do with Math 104 such as assigned work, grading procedures, and scores on exam or quiz problems. No appointment is necessary.
- Ask in person, call, or send E-mail to schedule appointments at other times. It is a good idea to have several possible meeting times in mind since the instructor may have time conflicts for other classes, committee meetings, or appointments with other students.
- At times there will be more than one student seeking help during office hours. Be sure to let the instructor know you have questions.

**Class Time Feedback** The following class time is set aside for feedback.

- Up to 10 minutes at the beginning of each regular class period is available for questions.
- After exams the instructor provides solutions, points out common errors, and explains the grading. Feel free to ask about solutions or assignment of partial credit. Questions about grading of individual exams must wait until after class or during office hours.

**ALEKS Feedback** An advantage of an online homework system is instantaneous feedback.

- Problems come from specific topics that are divided up by sections of the textbook. Credit for a topic is awarded when enough problems are correctly solved. This is determined by ALEKS and is based on each individual's readiness for progression.
- Instead of solving a problem there is an option to see an explanation of the solution.
- Topics that are not completed in time are revisited at the end of each chapter. This provides another chance at that topic and serves as an exam review.
- Review problems are available in ALEKS.
- ALEKS makes the following available: a grade book, a progress report, a time line, and an 'ALEKS Pie,' which shows both the number of topics that have been completed as well as the number that are remaining.
- Even though ALEKS is online every problem needs to be worked out by hand. Students are encouraged to have a dedicated notebook for their ALEKS assignments. These notes will be useful for completing similar problems or when seeking aid from the instructor or a tutor.

The explanation below is copied from the web site at [https://www.aleks.com/about\\_aleks](https://www.aleks.com/about_aleks).

Assessment and LEarning in Knowledge Spaces is a Web-based, artificially intelligent assessment and learning system. ALEKS uses adaptive questioning to quickly and accurately determine exactly what a student knows and doesn't know in a course. ALEKS then instructs the student on the topics [they are] most ready to learn. As a student works through a course, ALEKS periodically reassesses the student to ensure that topics learned are also retained.

**Desire2Learn** The following will be posted and regularly updated on D2L: syllabus, exam and quiz grades, practice exams, and slides or handouts used in class meetings.

**Early Alert** The registrar's office will send an E-mail to students during the 5th week of classes reporting on academic performance and attendance for each of their classes.

**Tutoring** Free tutoring for Math 104 is available in room 113 of Swart Hall. A current schedule will be posted outside of the tutoring room and on the math department web page.

The Center for Academic Resources also provides tutors. <http://www.wvosh.edu/car>

**Student Responses.** Your comments will be collected on a regular basis in a written student response. Student responses are collected at the beginning of class and will not be accepted late. Write half of a page (or more) about anything related to your progress in class. You may want to answer the questions below.

- What are the most important topics or concepts you have learned?
- Do you have experiences related to the material? If so, please describe in detail.
- What do you find motivating or interesting?

**Testing Center Exams** Exams will be taken in the testing center, which is in the basement of Polk Library. Students are encouraged to take their time, start with problems they are most comfortable with, and go back to check their work.

## Office of Equal Opportunity and Access

The explanation below is copied from the web site at <https://equity.uwosh.edu/about-us/>.

All members of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh community must be able to engage in academic pursuits, obtain and maintain employment, and utilize university services without experiencing discrimination based upon race, religion, creed, color, sex, gender identity/expression, ancestry, national origin, age, marital status, relationship to other employees, sexual orientation, disability, veteran's status, membership in the National Guard, state defense force or any other reserve component of the military forces of the United States or this state, arrest or conviction record, political affiliation, or other protected status.

To support the above Equal Opportunity and Access statement Dr. Price has also completed an Inclusive Excellence Pedagogy workshop through the Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning.

### Accommodation statement

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities. Please contact Disability Services in the Dean of Students Office, in room 125 of Dempsey Hall, 424-3100 (Voice), 424-1319 (TTY), for the University's accommodation request form and documentation requirements. <http://www.uwosh.edu/dean/disabilities.htm>.

Students with accommodation plans may confer confidentially with the instructor, preferably in a meeting during office hours, to discuss the accommodation requirements. Information related to an individual's accommodation request and/or arrangements will be confidential and will only be shared with relevant University personnel or offices.

## Policies

**Makeup Policy** Plan to take all exams and quizzes at the scheduled times. Exceptions will be based on the criteria below.

- Provide a written explanation. Phone messages and E-mail do not count.
- The reason for a makeup should be documented, verifiable, and beyond your control.
- Make arrangements in advance whenever possible.

**Communication Points** We must all be able to explain our solutions. Simply stating an answer with no additional explanation is not sufficient for full credit.

**Student Response Policy** A student response (SR) will only be accepted at the start of the class period on the day it is due. The due dates all fall on Fridays: September 15, September 29, October 13, October 27, and December 8.

**Calculator Policy** Students may not share calculators during quizzes and exams.

**Smart Phone, Tablet, and Laptop Policy** During class phones, tablets, or laptop computers can only be used for course-related activities. Do not use these items to listen to music, watch videos, text, or engage in other activities that distract from the learning environment.

**Attendance Policy** Plan to be at every class, participate in activities, ask questions, contribute to discussions, and stay until the end of the period.

## Academic Integrity

Examples of academic misconduct include submitting others' work as your own, cheating on an exam, tampering with the work of others, and intentionally assisting another student in any of these activities. The UW Oshkosh Student Discipline Code provides standards of academic integrity for everyone. The explanation below is copied from Section 14.01 of these guidelines, which is available at <https://www.uwosh.edu/stuaff/images/Chapter%20UWS%2014.pdf>.

Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors.

## Explanation of Grading

**The three exams are worth seventy-five percent of your final grade.** Exam scores will be posted to D2L. Exam percentage is determined by the total number of points earned divided by total points possible on all exams.

**ALEKS problems are worth fifteen percent of your final grade.** ALEKS grades are available on the course portal. These are determined by the number of topics completed.

**Other activities are worth ten percent of your final grade.** The other activities include attendance, participating in class, any assignments that are not completed using ALEKS, quizzes, and turning in student responses on time. Turning in four out of five student responses is sufficient. Quiz scores will be posted to D2L.

**Calculating your final grade.** Use the formula below to determine your percentage earned.

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Exam} \\ \text{\%-age} \end{array} \right) \times 0.75 + \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{ALEKS} \\ \text{\%-age} \end{array} \right) \times 0.15 + \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Other} \\ \text{\%-age} \end{array} \right) \times 0.10 = \begin{array}{c} \text{Percentage} \\ \text{Earned} \end{array}$$

$$(\underline{\hspace{2cm}}) \times 0.75 + (\underline{\hspace{2cm}}) \times 0.15 + (\underline{\hspace{2cm}}) \times 0.10 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Your final grade is based on percentage earned according to the following scale.

A	at least 93.0%	C	73.0% to 76.9%
A-	90.0% to 92.9%	C-	70.0% to 72.9%
B+	87.0% to 89.9%	D+	67.0% to 69.9%
B	83.0% to 86.9%	D	63.0% to 66.9%
B-	80.0% to 82.9%	D-	60.0% to 62.9%
C+	77.0% to 79.9%	F	below 60%